

**From:** jim and jan newton [jnewton110@cox.net]  
**Sent:** May 16, 2008 16:01  
**To:** vchec  
**Subject:** Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center Permit  
Dear Members of the Air Quality Control Board,

Hello, my name is Jan Newton and I reside at 110 Barn Elm Road in Williamsburg, Virginia in James City County.

I urge you to deny the permit for the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center in Wise County, Virginia on the grounds that the plant would be one of the largest emitters of hazardous air pollutants in the Commonwealth and would increase health problems, add to global warming and, in some cases, fatally harm wildlife habitats and endangered and rare species.

Air-borne pollution from coal-fired power plants (sulfur dioxide/acid rain, nitrous oxide, and mercury) travels up to 600 miles from its source. So not only are the residents of Wise County at risk for health and environmental problems, but so am I, my family and my fellow residents of James City County, which is 410 miles from the proposed site. The proposed Wise County coal plant calls itself a “clean coal power plant,” and yes, it may be *cleaner* than many coal-fired power plants of the past, but it will still emit more than 5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, adding significantly to the greenhouse gasses that are causing global warming. And the carbon capture and sequestration technology that this plant proposes to use in the future has yet to be proven and it is my understanding that it will take 8-10 years before any such technology will be available. In the mean time, we all suffer the consequences of large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and other air-borne pollution being released into the air.

The amount of mercury that would be released into the atmosphere by this coal plant is unacceptable when it comes to the health of our people, plants and animals (including fish) of our state and surrounding areas. The Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center would emit more than four times the amount of mercury per-megawatt than Dominion’s own Clover station in Halifax County. It would emit almost fifty times the amount of mercury as Reliant Energy’s coal plant in Seward, Pennsylvania. It would burn only a small percentage of waste coal, whereas the Reliant-Seward facility burns only waste coal and emits just 2% of the mercury that the Wise County coal plant would produce. Yet Dominion claims that its high mercury emissions will be caused by burning waste coal. Why would this plant produce more mercury than the Reliant-Seward facility? Dominion can do better than this and should do so for the health of Virginians.

The rivers of the Tennessee River system that run through and/or near Wise County harbor more at-risk fish and mussel species than any other river in the nation, as well as the highest concentration of imperiled species in the mainland United States. There are rivers in this region that already have mercury contamination that is so bad that the fish are unsafe to eat due to their high levels of mercury. Mercury particulates settle on the floors of rivers and streams, contaminating them for years to come. Furthermore, this region offers one of the most biologically diverse areas in our country and is home to numerous rare and threatened species. This region should be protected for the health of its ecosystem, the health of the people that live in the area and the health of those that visit and eat seafood from the area. Building and

operating this coal-fired power plant threatens this unusually bio-diverse area of our country and state.

The health of the Wise County residents is already suffering from coal dust and air pollution caused by the current coal plant in the region. Lung disease, cancer and asthma rates are higher in folks that live in coal regions. Asthma rates are particularly high among the children. These folks do not need another dirty coal plant in the area.

**I urge you NOT to except the air pollution permit with regards to the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center.** Global warming is urgent and real. We need to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to help reverse global warming and this needs to be done now if we are to make a difference. We need to put our money into clean, renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. If we put our efforts into energy efficiency and conservation alone, we won't even need this proposed power plant and can save money as well. We owe it to ourselves, our children and our grandchildren to take care of the wonderful mountains, lakes, rivers, streams, forests, plant and animal life, and PEOPLE of this fine state, not destroy them by burning dirty coal and causing more air and environmental pollution and health problems.

THINK GREEN and ACT GREEN for our lives and the lives of generations to come by not allowing this plant to be built.

Thank you.  
Jan Newton

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